GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:564
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2016
Indians Living Illegally in Foreign Countries
Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any data with regard to such Indians who have been found living in various countries even after the expiry of their visas and hence sent behind the bars;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps being taken by the Government to assist those Indian citizens who have struck in foreign countries due to expiry of their visas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Our Missions and Posts abroad do not have any reliable data about Indians living in those countries after the expiry of their visas. In many countries, the host Government does not make available such information/data to our Missions/Posts citing restrictions imposed by their privacy laws. Such cases normally come to notice when the foreign countries concerned, request our Missions/Posts to issue a travel document to such persons to enable their repatriation to India.

(c) Our Missions and Posts abroad extend all possible help and assistance to the Indian nationals when they are detained by local police/Immigration authorities or put in jails for violation of immigration laws. After confirmation of nationality of such persons, our Missions also facilitate their repatriation to India by issuing them necessary travel documents. Our Missions utilize the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) to pay for penalties in respect of Indian nationals for illegal stay in the host country. The ICWF is also used to pay for small fines/penalties for the release of the Indian nationals from jail/detention centre. Our Consular Officers also make regular visits to local jails and detention centres to ascertain the conditions of Indian nationals lodged there for violation of visa rules/overstay.